

Public Safety Committee Meeting

April 25, 2002

WFJCC Conference Room
78 W. Lee St., Warrenton, VA

Attendance Members present were Ray Graham and Harry Atherton. Staff present were Philip Myer, Darren Stevens, Sue Powles, Karen Early, Joell Gouldthorpe, Capt. Greg Mauck, Randy Wheeler, and Bill Dugan. Guests present were Butch Grimsley, Chief Roger Paul, John Gouldthorpe, Chance Kimble, Brett Hamby, Butch Flippo, Mike Freeman, Dick Thatcher, Bo Taylor, and Randy Embrey.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Chairman Graham at 7:00 P.M.

Agenda The agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes The minutes of the February 28, 2002 meeting were approved as presented.

800 Mhz Radio Update Mr. Graham advised the project was moving forward. Tower issues are being addressed and are believed to all be viable.

Town of Warrenton Addition to 800 Mhz System Chief Roger Paul, Warrenton PD, spoke on the issue. He reports that their 150 Mhz system is failing rapidly and the Town is investigating all corrective options. At their last meeting, the WFJCC Board of Directors recommended the Chief to request endorsement and support from this Committee in joining the project. Mr. Graham and Mr. Atherton endorse and support the Town of Warrenton joining the project on a cost-neutral basis to the County, the Town will be responsible for their equipment costs, the Town will endure no system infrastructure cost-sharing responsibility, and that this Committee makes no recommendations to either political body.

Water Supply Standards for Firefighting Mr. Graham wondered as to the feasibility of the fire departments using the water drained from the County pools at the end of the season. Philip Myer stated that to do so, specific outlet pipe sizes and distance requirements would be necessary to ensure no damage to either equipment or facility. Butch Grimsley will supply the needed information to Mr. Graham. As to the standards, Mr. Atherton cautioned that developed standards be achievable. Philip Myer acknowledged that a tiered system would be needed to address this concern.

OES Personnel Staffing Philip Myer outlined the plan proposed to achieve 12 hour coverage (6 A.M. to 6 P.M.) and building renovation projects to accommodate 24-hour staffing in stations. Mr. Graham pointed out that under this proposal there will still be "two services" (career and volunteer) but still "one mission," to provide response coverage to the County. The tax levy was set at seven cents to accomplish these goals.

The major point of concern with the proposal is relative to the naming of the entity that will provide the service and the need for the change. Randy Wheeler explained that the change is necessary in order to be covered under a different section of the FLSA so that the cost of overtime would not result in the virtual loss of one position, the loss meaning one station would be closed one day per week.

There was input from Chance Kimble, Butch Grimsley, Darren Stevens, Brett Hamby, Mike Freeman, Dick Thatcher, Bo Taylor, and Randy Embrey. Mr. Graham ended the discussion by stating that the County Attorney would be tasked to research the issue and bring back a recommendation. Mr. Graham stated that the recommendation would be followed. If there were options available as to the naming issue, then the least objectionable name would be used; however, if research reveals there is only one option, then that option will be used and everyone (volunteer and career) would be bound by that option.

Roundtable Brett Hamby stated that Company 1 is implementing a five-year plan to install (retrofit) 30 dry hydrants in five years. He also asked Mr. Graham if there was truth in the published article that stated that the volunteer system would have to pay for the portable radios they used. Mr. Graham stated that the article was incorrect. Capt. Mauck stated that the Sheriff's Office is stepping up their presence in the Marsh Run Mobile Home Community. Bill Dugan offered that Company 11 is adding two more dry hydrants in their response area. Philip Myer commented that the Emergency Operations Plan is being updated and there is hope that the Red Cross emergency "rig" can be utilized in drills and moderate events in the County.

Topics for Next Meeting 800 radio update, research results from the County Attorney's Office, and dry hydrant ordinance update. In view of the recent increased interest in these meetings, the next meeting will be advertised to be held at Company 6, the Warrenton Volunteer Rescue Company.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.